

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
T. Inspector General Subject		
ROOM NO. 6E18	BUILDING Hqs.	
REMARKS: <i>Casey acceptance of trust of Vice President Bush</i>		
FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

ILLEGIB

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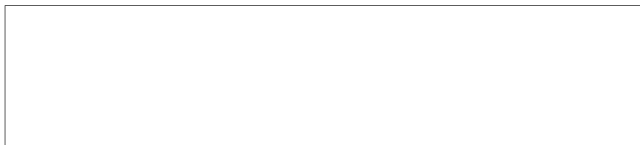
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of the Inspector General

9 June 1985

Ed -

Here is the memo
for Bill about the
Fine Arts Commission,
as per our conversation.
(and attachments).

STAT



and

be looking to talking
with him.

I thanks.

STAT



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~DDA Registry
86-1100xDDA REGISTRY
FILE: 45-6

MEMORANDUM FOR: William Donnelly
Deputy Director for Administration

25X1 FROM :
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT : Activities of the Commission

I know there are any number of important issues that are facing you, many of which need immediate decisions. May I add just a few more items to an already crowded agenda?

As I'm sure you know, the Fine Arts Commission was established to "advise the DCI on aesthetic matters relating to the Headquarters Building and grounds." This charter, though advisory in nature, is a broad one, and indeed the Commission frequently serves in negotiation, research and scheduling. I am anxious to share with you a little of what the Commission gets involved in and how we function. More important, I would like to discuss with you some concerns relating to our mandate. There have been recent instances where the Commission has been bypassed altogether (as examples: the current discussions on an additional memorial in the lobby of the entrance for those whose affiliation with the Agency must be secret and the numerous instances of replacing snack bars with machines displayed prominently in the halls) or consulted only belatedly. Under these circumstances, we find it difficult to provide the kind of help that I think benefits the Agency as a whole. A clear role for the Commission and acknowledgement of and support for that role from you would be very helpful, especially at a time of major change with the new building. In regard to that building, I suspect there may be a number of fine arts-related issues now under discussion--and perhaps nearing decision--that we would hope to be involved in.

In addition to these broad issues, there are several matters which first were discussed when Harry Fitzwater was in place and which need to be reviewed. One concerns the bronze bust of Vice President Bush, which the DCI has accepted as a gift from Vincent Melzac on behalf of the Agency and which the Agency now has in its possession. (The correspondence relating to that gift and other pertinent letters are attached). Mr. Melzac, a noted art collector, has for many years shared his extensive collection of modern American art with the Agency,

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and many of the canvasses from this collection are displayed in the main concourse of the Headquarters building. We would appreciate your thoughts on what might be an appropriate place for temporary as well as final display for that work of art.

In addition, the Commission, with Harry's permission, had entered into preliminary and informal discussions with Mr. Melzac on an offer he made to have the Agency purchase some of his collection, in return for which he would donate an even larger number of paintings for our permanent retention. Hank Mahoney, working with Harry, had given us a figure of \$30,000 for such purchases (memorandum attached). With Gramm-Rudman-Hollings looming over our heads, I recognize that we will have to discuss this issue thoroughly.

25X1
ZJ^1
There may be matters that you would like to raise with us about the Commission's role--perhaps what we should be doing and aren't! In any case, I look forward to a discussion with you and hope that, after you have time to think about this memorandum, you will ask your secretary to arrange an appointment. At that time, I would like to bring [redacted] the advisor to the Commission (and one more familiar with its workings than I am) with me.

25X1
Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

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DDA Form 100-7
85-4015/2

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of the Inspector General

11 December 1985

NOTE FOR: Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT: Bronze Bust of Vice President
George Bush

Harry,

In response to your request, I have attached a response for the DCI to send Mr. Melzac accepting his offer of the bust. The Commission, by the way, is delighted. All of us think acquisition of the bust is a real addition. I have asked the Commission to consider where the bust might be placed. My assumption is that it could be in the present building or the new one.

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You mentioned the sculpture of General Donovan that the DCI is commissioning. We talked earlier about the choice of a sculptor and you mentioned [redacted] was a possibility. Has this decision been made and do you have any models or pictures of his previous work? The Commission, while recognizing that the choice is the DCI's, are of course interested in the artistic merits of the sculptor. I would much appreciate it if you could let me know the status.

STAT

[redacted]
Chairperson, Fine
Arts Commission



Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DD/A Registry
85-4015/3

20 DEC 1985

Mr. Vincent Melzac

STAT

Dear Mr. Melzac:

Thank you for your letter and your generous offer of a gift of the bronze portrait bust of Vice President George Bush. Marc Mellon's sculpture is indeed a beautiful work of art. I share your view that the Headquarters Building of this Agency, where the Vice President served a distinguished tour as the DCI, is a most appropriate permanent home for the work. I am therefore pleased to accept, on behalf of the Agency, your very thoughtful and magnanimous gift.

The Fine Arts Commission has been asked to determine an appropriate place to display the sculpture to best advantage and I hope, when it has been installed, that you will come and view it in its new setting. I will leave the arrangements for the transfer of the gift to be worked out between yourself and the Chairman of the Commission,

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This gift is one more evidence of your generosity to this Agency. The display of modern paintings on loan from your collection continues to grace our corridors and enhance the beauty of this Building. All of us at CIA are indebted to you.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

STAT OIG/IS (11 Dec 85)

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - ER

1 - DDA

1 - OIG Chron

1 - OIG Subject

STAT 1 - Chron



Deputy Director
for Administration

DDA 85-4015/1
29 November 1985

STAT NOTE FOR:
Chairperson, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT: Bronze Bust of Vice President
George Bush

Carla,

1. The DCI wants to accept Vincent's kind offer. We need to determine where it will be placed in the building. The DCI wants to place the bronze statue of General Donovan where Don Quixote now resides. I understand that Vincent is presenting Don Q. to the Smithsonian.

2. Would you please prepare a memo of acceptance of the bust for the DCI's signature.

STAT



Harry E. Fitzwater

STAT

Mr. Vincent Melzac

November 19, 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

Two years ago the Agency's Fine Arts Commission mounted a show of bronze sculptures by a New York sculptor, Marc Mellon. Most of the works displayed were figures of dancers or gymnasts, but the central featured piece was a bronze portrait bust of Vice President George Bush. We commissioned the portrait shortly after Mr. Bush's assumption of his Vice Presidential duties, and the completed work has been on display at the Bush residence, except for the few weeks when it was on display in the Agency show.

We have been giving much thought lately to the question of a permanent home for the sculpture. We can think of no more appropriate place than the headquarters of the agency that Mr. Bush served so ably as Director, especially in view of the importance he himself attaches to his association with the CIA.

It would give us great pleasure to make a gift of this bronze to the Agency. Having worked with the Fine Arts Commission closely for many years, we are aware that an oil painting of the Vice President is already on display in the main concourse of the headquarters building. This sculpture clearly does not belong in that setting, but we sincerely hope you can identify an appropriate place to display it, both as a fine work of art, which it is, and as a representation of the only D.C.I. to date who has gone on to our nation's second highest elective office.

At a recent visit with Mrs. Barbara Bush, she told my wife and me that of all the assignments the Vice President had undertaken for the government, the one he enjoyed the most was the one with the Agency. Mrs. Bush's reference to their feelings about the Agency makes it clear they would be highly pleased with the placement. However, we hasten to add that the above proposal is ours and ours alone.

The Honorable William J. Casey
November 19, 1995
Page Two

STAT

We have discussed this idea with [redacted] the Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission and am sending this letter to you through her. My association with the Commission is a long-standing one, and we have derived much personal satisfaction from the fact that part of my collection of modern art hangs on the walls of the east and north concourse. We are also immensely proud of the Agency Seal Medalion you so graciously presented to me several years ago.

We hope this letter finds you in excellent health.

Sincerely yours,

Vincent Melzac

Vincent Melzac

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cc: [redacted]

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April 14, 1986

Washington, DC 20009

Dear

Since our discussion last Friday, April 11, 1986 covered several important matters, we thought it might be valuable to reduce to writing some of the topics which will require further action:

- 1) Enclosed is a copy of the letter of acceptance, for Ecce Homo by Georio Spaventa, on behalf of the Vatican, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Pio Laghi, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio. Also, enclosed is our reply, dated March 26, 1986.
- 2) We had a most pleasant meeting with His Excellency on March 31, 1986. His representative, Father Bernard Yarrish will be in touch with you to arrange a mutually convenient time for the transfer of Ecce Homo from the agency to the Vatican. For the record, Father Yarrish can be reached at 202-333-7121 or 7122, and he is expecting your call.
- 3) His Excellency generously agreed that our gift, for the present, will be treated as an indefinite loan and that upon my death, title to legal ownership will automatically take place. We have advised our counsel, Robert H. Reinhart, Esq. of our pledge and he will work with his legal counter part at the Apostolic Nunciature to draw up the necessary language to reflect this agreement.
- 4) We are herewith requesting that our gift to the Agency of the Bronze Portrait of Vice President George Bush, and whatever other art objects we bequeath to the agency in the future, be treated in the same manner as described in point number 3 above. Apropos, would you please be prepared to designate someone on the legal staff of the agency, in the event, Robert H. Reinhart, Esq. may need to work with him or her.
- 5) We have submitted to you at our meeting last Friday, the names of two highly qualified Art Appraisers who can provide the agency

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with current Regional market values. This, along with Christies "International" view will give us a more balanced appraisal for price negotiations. As mentioned previously, this was the method used by the Smithsonian in their 1980 land mark acquisition of art works from our collection. Again, for the record, we have no financial ties whatsoever in either M. B. Odoroff or Chris Middendorf. Nor have we discussed any of the paintings etc. in the collection at the agency.

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I have the strange feeling I may have forgotten something of our conversation which may be important; but if this be the case, I know you will bring it to my attention.

STAT

Finally, your predecessor [redacted] as we both agree, did an outstanding job as Chairman. It is my feeling you will also and I look forward to working with you on projects of major importance to the agency as we get further into the future. You have my unqualified support.

All Best,



Vincent Melzac

PS. You are probably aware that where construction is involved the nationally accepted standard for expenditures for art work is from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the amount budgeted for construction, the $\frac{1}{2}$ being the absolute minimum.

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STAT

Faye Nixon, Mgr: (304) 822-4382 Vincent Melzac, Owner

ADMINISTRATIVE
INTERNAL USE ONLY

STAT MEMORANDUM FOR:
Chief, New Building Project Office

STAT FROM:
Chairperson, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT: Placement of Bust of Vice President George Bush

1. As you may know, Mr. Vincent Melzac, the noted art collector who has loaned the Agency the paintings and sculpture that grace the first floor corridors, has offered as a gift to the Agency a bust of the Vice President. Mr. Casey has accepted this generous offer and has asked the Fine Arts Commission to act as the go-between with Mr. Melzac and to determine an appropriate permanent home for the bust.

2. The bust is slightly larger than life size and presumably would sit on a pedestal, which has yet to be chosen. It would need to be appropriately lighted and should be able to be viewed from all sides. The Commission at its last meeting discussed possible sites in either the original Headquarters building (OHB) or the new one. The bust should be displayed somewhere other than the main entrance of the OHB so that it does not compete with the life-size sculpture of General Donovan which, I understand, will replace the present "Ecce Homo" sculpture. The bust is now in the Vice President's residence but is available as soon as we are able to receive it.

3. The Commission asks your help in identifying an appropriate location in the new building where the bust could be permanently displayed. One consideration to keep in mind is that Mr. Bush is the only former DCI to be so honored with a bust. If it is determined that the new building would be the best choice, we might want to put the sculpture on display in a temporary site in the old building until the new site is ready. I think Mr. Melzac, who has had some health problems, is anxious to have it on display as soon as possible. And the Commission shares this view because it is a beautiful work of art.

4. I would appreciate it if you would let me know as soon as possible if you would be willing to work with us on this project.

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ADMINISTRATIVE
INTERNAL USE ONLY

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Possible Purchase from Melzac Collection

FROM:

Henry P. Mahoney
Director of Logistics

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

20 June 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

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Chairman, FAC
6E-08, Hqs.

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ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

20 June 1985

STAT MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

FROM: Henry P. Mahoney
Director of Logistics

SUBJECT: Possible Purchase from Melzac Collection

STAT REFERENCE: Memo to D/L from [REDACTED] Undated,
Same Subject

Thank you for your efforts toward obtaining the Melzac art collection for the Agency. Permission is hereby granted to negotiate with Mr. Melzac for the purchase of this collection at a price not to exceed \$30,000.

STAT

[REDACTED]

/ Henry P. Mahoney ✓

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

The Vincent Melzac Collection

This central concourse, so handsomely suited to the display of art, has for some years housed a number of outstanding examples of the work of artists known collectively as the Washington Color School. These paintings, and the bronze sculpture by *Giorgio Spaventa, have been made available on loan through the generosity of Mr. Vincent Melzac, a noted collector of modern art and an early champion of the innovative work done by these artists.

Washington color painting is closely related to the school of abstract expressionism which emerged in New York during the 1950's. Jackson Pollock, Helen Frankenthaler and Willem de Kooning were leading figures in this movement. Their large canvases, with bold color areas applied in unconventional ways, stimulated Washington artists like Morris Louis, Howard Mehring, Thomas Downing and Alma Thomas, all of whom are represented in the collection on display here. The Louis canvases, located in the D and F corridors, are particularly valuable, and regrettably we have had to encase them in plexiglass to protect them from accidental damage.

Other works from the Melzac collection can be seen on display at the National Gallery, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and the National Museum of American Art.

For his generous support to CIA over a period of many years Mr. Melzac was awarded the Agency Seal Medallion by DCI Casey in December 1982.